

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding non-final Office Action mailed July 15, 2004 (Paper No. 12). Upon entry of this response, claims 83-107 are pending in the application. In this response, claims 83-107 have been added, and claims 41-58 and 71-82 have been cancelled. Applicants respectfully request that the amendments being filed herewith be entered and request that there be reconsideration of all pending claims.

1. Election/Restriction

The Office Action stated that “newly submitted claims 76-82 are directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed.” (Office Action, p. 2.) The Office Action further stated that

Since applicant has received an action on the merits for the originally presented invention, this invention has been constructively elected by original presentation for prosecution on the merits. Accordingly, claims 76-82 are withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. (Office Action, p. 2.)

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 76-82 have been cancelled in this response, and therefore the restriction and constructive election are rendered moot.

2. Drawings Objections

The drawings have been objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a), and the Office Action states that “the limitations of claims 73 and 75 must be shown or the features cancelled from the claims.” (Office Action, p. 2.) Claims 73 and 75 are cancelled without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer, and the drawing objection is therefore rendered moot.

3. Rejection of Claim 73 under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 73 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claim 73 is cancelled without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer, and the rejection of this claim is therefore rendered moot.

4. Rejection of Claims 41, 45-47, 49-51, 55-57, and 71-74 under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 41, 45-47, 49-51, 55-57, and 71-74 have been rejected under § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by *LaJoie* (U.S. 6,772,433). Claims 41, 45-47, 49-51, 55-57, and 71-74 are cancelled without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer, and the rejection of these claims is therefore rendered moot. Applicants take this action merely to reduce the number of disputed issues and to facilitate early allowance and issuance of other claims in the present application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of these cancelled claims in a continuing application, if Applicants so choose, and do not intend to dedicate any of the cancelled subject matter to the public.

5. Rejection of Claims 42-44, 52-54, and 75 under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 42-44, 52-54, and 75 have been rejected under § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over *LaJoie et al.* (U.S. 6,772,433) in view of *Lett et al.* (U.S. 5,592,551). Claims 42-44, 52-54, and 75 are cancelled without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer, and the rejection of these claims is therefore rendered moot. Applicants take this action merely to reduce the number of disputed issues and to facilitate early allowance and issuance of other claims in the present application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of these cancelled claims in a continuing application, if Applicants so choose, and do not intend to dedicate any of the cancelled subject matter to the public.

6. Rejection of Claim 83 under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 83 has been rejected under § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over *LaJoie et al.* (U.S. 6,772,433) in view of *White et al.* (U.S. 6,628,302). Claim 83 is cancelled without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer, and the rejection of this claim is therefore rendered moot. Applicants take this action merely to reduce the number of disputed issues and to facilitate early allowance and issuance of other claims in the present application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of this cancelled claim in a continuing application, if Applicants so choose, and do not intend to dedicate any of the cancelled subject matter to the public.

7. Rejection of Claims 48 and 58 under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 48 and 58 have been rejected under § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over *Goode et al.* (U.S. 6,166,730) in view of *Lett et al.* (U.S. 5,592,551). Claims 48 and 58 are cancelled without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer, and the rejection of these claims is therefore rendered moot. Applicants take this action merely to reduce the number of disputed issues and to facilitate early allowance and issuance of other claims in the present application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of these cancelled claims in a continuing application, if Applicants so choose, and do not intend to dedicate any of the cancelled subject matter to the public.

8. Newly Added Claims

Applicant submits that no new matter has been added in the new claims 83-107 and that new claims 83-107 are allowable over the cited prior art. Specifically, claim 83 is allowable for at least the reason that the cited references do not disclose, teach, or suggest at least the feature of “receiving, by the STT, a first user input enabling the user to extend the access duration from the first value to a second value, the second value specified by the user.” Claim 96 is allowable for at

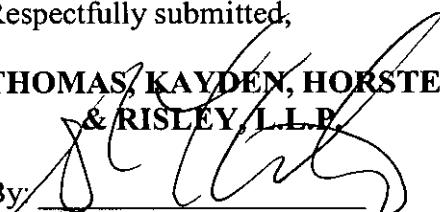
least the reason that the cited references do not disclose, teach, or suggest at least the feature of “at least one processor that is programmed by at least the program code to enable the STT to receive a first user input enabling the user to extend the access duration from the first value to a second value, the second value specified by the user.” Therefore, Applicants request that the Examiner enter and allow the above new claims.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request that all outstanding objections and rejections be withdrawn and that this application and presently pending claims 83-107 be allowed to issue. Although some dependent claim rejections and some obviousness rejections are explicitly addressed above, the omission of arguments for other claims is not intended to be construed as an implied admission that the Applicants agree with the rejection or finding of obviousness for the respective claim or claims. If the Examiner has any questions or comments regarding Applicants' response, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone Applicants' undersigned counsel.

Respectfully submitted,

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